



# Frederick County Board of Elections

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## MINUTES of the July 1, 2020 Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 PM, via video and teleconference by the Board President, Mrs. Mary Lou Green.

### **PRESENT:**

Mary Lou Green, President

Shirley McDonald, Vice President

Lawrence C. Hill, Secretary

Mary Costello, Board Member

William L. Woodcock, Board Member

Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel

Stuart Harvey, Election Director

Noreen L. Schultz, Election Deputy Director

Christine Winer, Election Supervisor

Marc R. Welch, Election Administrative Assistant

MC Keegan-Ayer, County Council President

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### **GUESTS:**

Steve Barrett, Republican Central Committee

Jim Filson, League of Women Voters

### **ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

Mr. Harvey added a discussion merging precincts 07-005 and 07-006 for the 2020 General Election to New Business.

### **BOARD OF CANVASSERS:**

108 ballots arrived too late for the 2020 Primary Election. Mr. Woodcock made a motion to reject the untimely ballots. Mrs. Costello seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. McDonald made a motion to adjourn the Board of Canvassers and return to the regular meeting. Mr. Woodcock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Woodcock made a motion to approve the May 6, 2020 Board Meeting minutes. Mr. Hill seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodcock made a motion to approve the May 22, 2020 Special Board Meeting minutes. Mrs. McDonald seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **COUNTY COUNCIL:**

Ms. Keegan-Ayer reported that the County Council has passed 4 ballot initiatives for the 2020 General Election ballot. The Board discussed the various initiatives.

#### **ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Harvey summarized the contents of the written Election Director's report and provided copies to the Board. The Board discussed the report.

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#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **A. FY20 BUDGET**

Mr. Harvey provided an update on the current budget status. He provided the Board with the costs of postage and mailing for the Primary Election, along with the projected costs of the 2020 General Election. The Board discussed the costs, and differences in cost relative to a "standard" election.

##### **B. JUNE 2, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION**

###### **1. BALLOT DROP BOXES**

Mr. Harvey discussed the popularity of the drop boxes. Approximately 9000 voters opted to return their ballot via the drop box. The majority of ballots were returned on Election Day. The Board discussed the success of the drop boxes.

###### **2. VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS**

Approximately 60,000 ballots were cast via vote by mail. The bulk of ballots were received just before the June 2nd deadline. The Board discussed the process and the benefits and negatives of the remote canvass meetings, and streaming.

###### **3. VOTE CENTERS**

Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the process. He discussed the various technology used to keep in touch and monitor the vote centers. Voters were generally pleased with the process, and PPE. The Board discussed the vote center process. Mrs. Keegan-Ayer reported that voters who reached out to the Council expressed appreciation for the work of the

Board and Staff.

4. **BALLOT CANVASSING**

Mr. Harvey discussed the Canvass process, issues from the mail vendor, and the canvassers. He expressed appreciation for the work of the election judges, staff, and voters.

C. **MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – BRUNSWICK UPDATE**

Brunswick election will be 100% vote by mail. They will have no in-person voting. The City will mail a ballot to all registered voters in the City of Brunswick. They will canvass beginning on July 28, through August 4th. Final canvass will happen shortly after polls close at 8pm on August 4, 2020.

D. **2020 MAEO CONFERENCE**

The MAEO Conference is tentatively scheduled for August 23-26, 2020. The election will happen on August 25, unless the conference is canceled. The Board discussed the conference and election, as well as the impact of the pandemic.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **VACANT POSITIONS**

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the status of the vacant positions in the office. Closing date will be in approximately 2 weeks.

B. **LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION**

Mr. Harvey discussed the recent Legislative review. He updated the Board on questions from the members. Mr. Harvey testified at the hearing.

C. **STATE BOARD MEETING**

The State Board meeting focused primarily on the upcoming general election. SBE proposed 3 options for how to conduct the election: a “regular” election, mailing all voters a vote-by-mail application plus expanded vote centers, and a “hybrid” vote-by-mail election that would be similar to the June Primary but with early voting, and expanded vote centers. The State Board membership was split on choosing between option 2 and option 3, but leaning toward option 2. Election directors and MAEO made a recommendation for a hybrid vote by mail election, with early voting and election day vote centers. MAEO favors option 3. The State Board made no final decision or recommendation to the Governor. The Governor will make the final determination. The Board discussed the various options and the ramifications of each.

D. **2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

Mr. Harvey proposed for the Board's consideration regarding early voting/Election Day vote centers. He discussed options for if Frederick Senior Center remains unavailable. He will contact the Mayor of Frederick to explore options for using the New Design Road (former Trinity School) location, or others. Mrs. Keegan-Ayer will also discuss with the County Executive if the senior center will be available. She'll also reach out to the Mayor to see if there are other options. In addition to the 4 existing locations, he would like to propose an additional location to help cover the eastern portion of the County. There are two possible locations to consider: Mt. Pleasant Ruritan Club, or the Walkersville VFD activities building.

Mr. Harvey proposed to increase the number of available drop boxes. In addition to the 2 added to Middletown, and Thurmont, he suggests adding a drop box in Mount Airy, as well as in Walkersville. He also suggested possibly adding one at the New Market town hall.

The Board discussed the proposals. Mrs. Green suggested adding a drop box in the southwestern part of the County, likely in Brunswick.

**E. MERGE 07-005/006**

Mr. Harvey requested the Board consider merging these two polling places for the 2020 Presidential General Election. These two sites are in the same congressional district and can be merged.

**F. CREDIT CARD PURCHASES**

Mr. Welch provided an overview of the process to begin accepting credit card payments for voter registration data requests.

**G. OTHER**

Mrs. Green asked about the potential budget cuts. Mr. Harvey reports no decision has yet been made.

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**SCHEDULE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Board scheduled its next meeting for Monday, August 3, 2020 at 12:30 PM, via video and telephone conference.

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### EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:15 PM, Mr. Harvey requested the Board adjourn the public meeting and proceed to Executive Session. This action is in accordance with the authority granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Section 3-305 (b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Mr. Woodcock made a motion to proceed to executive session. Mrs. Costello seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

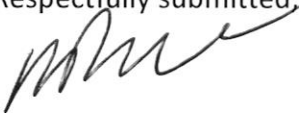
The Board recessed briefly to switch to the private phone conference for the executive session, and reconvened at 2:20 PM.

### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Woodcock seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

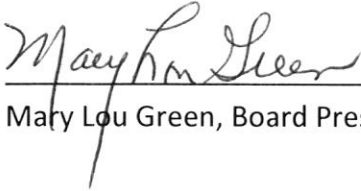
Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Marc R. Welch  
Election Administrative Assistant

Approved by:



Mary Lou Green, Board President

3/12/21  
Date